AN ESSAY

ON

FINGERING THE PIANO-FORTE, &c.

By JOHN FURTADO, Mus. Prof.

STOKE-NEWINGTON.

London:

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I. SEEING the extreme Fingers can be but taken for reaching Octaves, &c. *four* muſt be the Maximum, or greateſt Diſtance, of the Fingers poſſible, (conceiving either One fixed for preſent Eaſe,) ſo the Reſt ſhall all be fingered in Proportion:

That is, 8 : 4 : : X : Z = ½ X.

Where X is the Interval, and Z the Diſtance of the Fingers applicable, which is equal to Half the Interval. Hence a Fifth may be taken Two Fingers diſtant, &c. as declared in the following Table:

When X	= 1 . . .	then Z = 0.
	= 2	= 1.
	= 3	= 1.
	= 4	= 2.
	= 5	= 2.
	= 6	= 3.
	= 7	= 3 or 4.

N. B. The Remainders are to be always rejected.

II.

II. It muſt be obſerved, that the *Octave* is taken in the vulgar Reckoning, (but *Seven* in the true or phyſical Reckoning,) and *Four* for the Maximum of the Fingers, according to the phyſical Reckoning; and, ſince X is like to the Octave, (*i. e.* of the ſame Reckoning,) Z muſt be like to the *Maximum* by the Properties of the Golden Rule. — (Thor. Baſs, §. 5.)

This I have followed in the foregoing Table; ſo that a Third is taken One Finger diſtant, &c. — (Not. Art. 1.)

III. Now, in Fingering all Paſſages, the Hand muſt keep as fixed as poſſible; admitting no conjunctive Notes or Seconds to be thus conjunctively expreſſed (*i. e.* with the ſame Fingers); hence ſometimes we are obliged to tranſgreſs the general Fingering.*

When this is well underſtood, it will be evident how to finger the Intervals on any Inſtrument.

SCHOLIUM.

Though this Theory may be termed inſignificant, yet it is the beſt that can be given, if there be any other; and, though it is faſhionable now to reject any Theory, as impoſed on the Illiterate by the Vulgar, yet moſt Sciences will not admit of any practical Perfection without ſome Theory;† and whoever is converſant with my *Elements of Thorough Baſs* will ſoon find what Errors almoſt daily happen with our Compoſers; which, though not ſo ſcientific as that I have by me, a phyſical Reader may nevertheleſs improve it, as poſſibly my other I may chooſe never to be publiſhed.

N. B. My Treatiſe of Thorough Baſs, (above-mentioned,) 8vo, Price only One Shilling, is alſo publiſhed and ſold by Meſſrs. RICHARDSONS, Cornhill; Meſſrs. HOLLAND and JONES, Biſhopſgate-Street; Mr. SIMPSON, Royal Exchange; and by Others.

* There is ſome little Judgement required in adapting the Fingering, as muſt evidently appear.

† As ſolving a geometric Problem without Euclid's Elements, &c.